

WASHINGTON - The Maricopa County Sheriff's Department has been awarded a \$449,999 grant by the Department of Justice to fight methamphetamine, announced U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, D-Ariz.

The grant was awarded by Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Initiative. The grants will help communities combat the manufacture, use, and distribution of meth, and collaborate with other entities in the prevention and treatment of meth abuse. Nationally, a total of \$43.6 million was awarded to 117 law enforcement agencies under this program.

This is a targeted program that focuses on supporting communities with the most significant meth problems based on data from the Drug Enforcement Administration's El Paso Intelligence Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Treatment Episode Data Set. Communities nominated by U.S. Attorneys and all federally recognized Native American tribes were also invited to apply for funding.

"Methamphetamine use has become a huge law enforcement problem in Arizona and is destroying many lives," Pastor said. "This funding will offer significant assistance to the Sheriff's Department as it continues to combat meth use in our Valley," Pastor said.

Also in Arizona, the Navajo Division of Public Safety received a \$450,000 grant.